



CONDOM PROVISION POLICY

Date Implemented	19/06/2023
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Approved By	School Council
Consultation is Mandatory	Date: 19/06/2023 Consulted: School Council
Next Scheduled Review Date	Feb 2025



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Rushworth P-12 College on 58561230

PURPOSE

To recognise the importance of ensuring students develop into healthy adults and engage in safe sex practices. For Rushworth P-12 College to support the delivery of comprehensive sexual health education programs which may include the provision of condoms and dental dams from the nominated staff of the wellbeing team.

OBJECTIVE OF THIS POLICY

To explain to Rushworth P-12 College parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students to participate in sexual health education and build knowledge of safe sex practices.

This policy applies to:

- All staff (including casual and relief staff, and volunteers)
- All Secondary students at Rushworth P-12

POLICY

Rushworth P-12 College understands the important role our school plays in providing comprehensive sexual health education (in accordance with DET curriculum requirements). Within the scope of this education requirement Rushworth P-12 College also understands the role it plays in ensuring students engage in safe sex practices. This policy should be applied in conjunction with the following policies and procedures:

- Mandatory Reporting
- Child Safe Standards
- Duty of Care
- Age of consent laws
- Mature Minor Policies

Why is this policy necessary?

Rushworth P-12 College understands that education and access to supplies is pivotal in ensuring students engage in safe sex practices. It is also understood that there are unique barriers that exist for students in regional areas that mean their access to supplies such as condoms is restricted.

Barriers to access include, but are not limited to:

- **Affordability:** Many of our students and their families, do not have the financial means to purchase their own supplies such as condoms.
- **Access:** As many students live rurally, they do not have the physical access to stores to purchase items. And when students are able to access stores, there is an additional deterrent that they are often having to purchase items from local people that they or their family know, raising concerns of privacy and confidentiality.

These barriers, or limitations, increase the need for Rushworth P-12 College to provide access to students to ensure that they have access to supplies, for both contraceptive purposes and to reduce risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)

Procedures for Teachers and Other School Staff

Rushworth P-12 College staff must direct students requesting access to condoms to the nominated staff of the Wellbeing Team.

Senior secondary students (Grade 10, 11 and 12) will be informed of the Condom Provision Policy within sex education classes. Secondary students aged 12 to 16 will only be provided information regarding the Policy if they seek information from a staff member or discuss being sexually active with a staff member (who will then direct them to a nominated member of the Wellbeing Team).

It is noted that in the state of Victoria the legal age of consent is 16 years. It is also noted that young people between the ages of 12 and 15 can consent to sexual activity if the person they are engaging in the sex acts with have no more than a 2-year age gap (older or younger).

See: <https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/age-consent>

Procedures for nominated Wellbeing Staff

If a student requests access to condoms and/or dental dams, the student will be required to meet with the school nurse. The student will be required to participate in an education session with the nurse, a member of the wellbeing team may also be present. This education session will cover the following topics:

- Is the student a mature minor?
- Consent and healthy relationships
- STD identification and prevention, including where and how to access support
- Safe Sex, including the demonstration on safe condom and dental dam usage and disposal.

At the end of the session the student will be provided with a Sexual Health Pack (containing condoms and/or dental dams and information leaflets). The wellbeing team will keep confidential records of students who have requested education session, who have completed education sessions and students who have accessed a Sexual Health Pack. When 5 packs have been accessed by a student they will need to have a review session with the health nurse and/or nominated member of the wellbeing team.

Considerations

- Where appropriate, students to be encouraged to talk to their parents about their sexual activity and sexual health.
- Always inform students that information is kept confidential (unless a report is required to the relevant authorities).

Contents of Sexual Health Pack

- An instruction leaflet (including a list of resources and service providers for other sexual health matters); and
- 10 condoms and/or dental dams

Cost of program

Rushworth P-12 Wellbeing Team (in conjunction with the school nurse) will arrange free supplies via local community health services (multiple sources are available that provide packs for students for free).

Review

The policy will be reviewed after 6 months of being active.